



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

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West Sacramento, CA 95691
<http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>

Action Items and Meeting Summary
for the May 18, 2011 Board Meeting at
1075 West Capitol Blvd, Community Room, West Sacramento, CA

EXECUTIVE MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Called to Order 9:12 am

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The following Board members were present for the meeting: Chuck Bonham, Karen Finn, Mike Eaton, Mary Piepho, Jim Provenza, Todd Ferrara, Dan Taylor, Ken Vogel, Eddie Woodruff, Jimmie Yee, and Darla Guenzler.

Liaison Advisors present for the meeting were: Steve Chappell, Jeff Melby, Robin Kulakow, Mark Wilson, Maria Rea, Steve Culberson. Ex-Officio Member Senator Lois Wolk was also present.

General Public Comments

Public comments were requested at the beginning of the meeting, for each discussion topic and at the end of the meeting.

Action Items

1. Staff will add Eddie Woodruff's name to Roll Call list of March 16, 2011 board meeting.
2. Staff will email board the link to the Assembly Hearing for the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee at which Campbell Ingram spoke on May 10, 2011.
3. Staff will correctly identify Robert Pyke as an engineering consultant in Ecological Restoration workgroup materials.
4. Staff will recruit and include local Delta interests to participate in the workgroups for the strategic planning effort. Staff are working to identify Delta interest (agriculture, commercial, recreation and government) and appropriate times and venues to

ensure local input is received and incorporated into the Conservancy's Strategic Plan.

5. The Board made a motion to establish a Legislative Committee to review relevant state, federal and local legislation on behalf of the Conservancy and make recommendations for the board at the June board meeting. A motion was also made that Chuck Bonham, Todd Ferrara, Dan Taylor and Jim Waters, an alternate liaison advisor for Suisun Resources Conservation District, would serve on the committee. Both motions passed unanimously. Nancy Ullrey will be the staff coordinator.
6. Staff will post strategic plan workgroup meeting summaries to website.
7. Staff will develop a matrix of all workgroups, their purpose, membership, and meeting schedule.
8. Staff will post Early Project Planning Efforts Panel presentations to website.
9. Staff will send a copy of the Conservancy's Delta Plan comments to board.
10. Staff will research Safe Harbor Agreements; arrange presentations for board and the Ecosystem Restoration and Land Ownership and Best Management Practices workgroups.
11. Staff will ask to procure early access review of the Delta Protection Commission's draft Economic Sustainability Plan.
12. Staff will post Conservancy's revised timeline to comment on the Delta Plan on the website
13. The Board made a motion to draft a letter to Secretary Laird requesting his support for the Conservancy to convene and take the lead in coordinating early project planning efforts in the Delta. Motion passed unanimously. Staff will draft letter to Secretary Laird for Chair Piepho to sign.
14. Staff will research cemetery districts as a potential model for long term operations and maintenance options for Land Ownership and Best Management Practices workgroup.
15. The Board moved to implement four early projects: Yolo Wildlife Area (3) and Technical Assistance: Grant Development (1). A vote was taken, and the board approved the four early projects, 5-3. Ayes: Piepho, Provenza, Taylor, Vogel, Guenzler. Nays: Finn, Woodruff, Ferrara. Staff will attempt to complete the four early projects approved by board: Yolo Wildlife Area (3) and Technical Assistance: Grant Development (1).

16. Staff will develop applicant screening and approval criteria for Technical Assistance: Grant Development early project.
17. Staff will research and develop criteria for selecting early projects. On future proposals they were asked to: define tier 1 and tier 2, identify if the project is a revenue source or ongoing expense, clarify which of the mandates the project meets and how it addresses the Conservancy's co-equal goals.
18. Staff will develop a matrix identifying the options and pros and cons of land ownership and land management from the Conservancy's perspective.
19. Staff will research and develop a grant program for the Conservancy. Consider using an MOU with another Conservancy until program is developed.
20. When researching Carbon Farms project, staff will research how an Agricultural Economic Development fund could be set up to support future projects.
21. Staff will add to the June 15, 2011, Board meeting agenda: the Chair/Vice Chair elections as an action item; a report from the newly formed Legislative Committee; a report on Delta Plan comments sent to Delta Stewardship Council (DSC); and more specifics details on the workgroup discussions.

Other Motions and Votes

Consent Calendar Items

With the addition of Eddie Woodruff to the Roll Call list, the Board approved the Action Items and Meeting Summary for the Board Meeting on March 16, 2011 by unanimous vote.

Meeting Adjourned 2:35 pm

Extensive discussion on all issues is available through online audio tapes or from board liaison notes
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MEETING SUMMARY DETAILS

Executive Officer's Report

New Staff Introductions – Charlie Diamond was introduced as a volunteer starting early June.

Update on Meetings with Key Players – Campbell Ingram reported he has met with all board members, most liaison advisors, and conservancy directors. Next he will focus on identifying Delta residents get their input as to how the Conservancy can help meet their needs and be successful. The Capitol visit to meet key legislators was postponed because of scheduling conflicts likely will be pushed out to fall.

Conservancy Budget Update – Cindy Messer reported that the Spring Finance Letter resulted in an increased budget for FY 11/12. (\$100,000 for strategic plan development and \$65,000 for facilities). The Budget Change Proposal (BCP) process for FY 12/13 has started. Staff is developing the concept paper, due June 6 to the Natural Resources Agency. They will review and return by July 8. The Conservancy has until August 26 to submit a revised BCP to Agency. BCPs are due to the Department of Finance by September 14.

Conservancy Correspondence – Correspondence in packet review by board. Campbell Ingram spoke at the Assembly Hearing for the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on May 10. (meeting posted on the website: <http://www.calchannel.com/channel/viewVideo/2479>; minute 110 of first file)

Conservancy Office Space Update – Staff reported the Form 910 packet initiating the office space search was sent to Department of General Services and was approved. It is at the Department of Finance and appears on track. We should be ready to go with the office search when the budget is approved.

Future Funding Sources Update – Nothing new to report.

Delta Meetings Matrix – Staff distributed an updated Matrix with additional meetings attended by staff. (Hand Out)

Chair/Vice Chair Elections – The Board must elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the next year. Legislation directs we must have an annual election, the Chair and Vice Chair must be a voting member and the Chair must be a representative of their respective county board of supervisors. The process by which the vote will be conducted was discussed: nominations for the Chair will be asked for, a vote taken and the new chair will conduct the balance of the meeting. Nominations for the Vice Chair will follow the same process.

Delta Round Table Update – Nancy Ullrey reported that a letter of inquiry was sent on May 10 to a potential underwriter; a response is expected by month's end. The Round

Table is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 9:00am-4:30pm followed with a proposed reception featuring art, food, and wine from the Delta. Venues in the Delta were explored, but capacity and parking could not accommodate the expected audience of 200+. Haggin Oaks Golf Complex was selected as the venue. Staff is in the process of arranging a second panel on the interconnection between flood management options and ecosystem restoration. Staff was directed to consider inviting a panelist from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Strategic Plan Process Update – The Request for Proposal (RFP) went public May 10. A mandatory pre-bid conference is scheduled Friday, May 20. To date, 248 people reviewed the RFP via BidSync; 89 people downloaded the RFP.

Strategic Plan Work Groups have been identified and are in the process of starting. It was pointed out Robert Pyke is not a Delta Counties Coalition representative; he will be identified as an engineering consultant in the future. Advisor Mark Wilson noted a lack of agriculture members on the Land Ownership and Best Management Practices work group. Staff agrees the work groups need to identify Delta residents to integrate local issues and concerns into the strategic plan.

Legislation Update – Staff added two items and one staff recommendation to the last update. After discussion about the need to have a broader focus and more participation, the board formed a legislation committee. Members Chuck Bonham, Todd Ferrara and Dan Taylor volunteered to be on the committee; Jim Waters, an alternate liaison advisor for Suisun Resources Conservation District, also volunteered. Nancy Ullrey will be the staff coordinator. Their goal will be to have a comprehensive nexus of how to approach legislation on behalf of the Conservancy and make recommendations for the board at the June board meeting.

Delta Plan Update – Delta Stewardship Council's (DSC) Executive Officer Joe Grindstaff reported the Delta Plan has a revised schedule out and it is on their website. Revision 5 will be released for 45-day comment period early July that includes draft EIR. In August/September another draft will be released for 45 day comment period for Office of Administrative Law. Final decision on the Plan will be made in November, after which it will go to the Office of Administrative Law and Secretary of State to be posted. DSC is still on track to implement the Delta Plan in January. Staff reported that there is a hand-out capturing the Delta Plan revised timeline, including the Conservancy's timeline to review and comment on the plan. Staff will post hand-out on website, as well. (see attachment)

Economic Sustainability Plan Update – Mike Machado, Delta Planning Commission (DPC) reports that Tourism and Recreation economic output equals about 25 percent of the Delta's agricultural economic output. Tourism and Recreation output stays in the Delta, whereas the agricultural output adds value, through an employment chain, to the Delta and surrounding communities. Removal of agricultural lands will impact the greater community, as well as the Delta. Increased Tourism and Recreation output

cannot 'replace' agricultural output, because of the added value factor and economic impact to the community. The Economic Sustainability Draft Plan will be completed by fall 2011. As it becomes available, DPC will provide input to DSC for integration into Delta Plan. The Conservancy can get access to early input going to DSC.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Update – Karla Nemeth reported BDCP is creating a public participation process to insure broad representation in their newly forming public work groups, which will begin in June. The goal for these workgroups is to work through all issues and have a public review draft plan early 2012.

Membership of the management committee will be posted on the web this week. Funding issues will have a workgroup, likely to begin in the fall. Delta Counties Coalition will be invited into the workgroup process. There currently is no Delta counties representation on the management committee.

BDCP is developing a full range of alternatives expanding beyond the 15,000 cubic foot per second, that will consider no-project and conveyance alternatives.

Panel on Early Project Planning Efforts –This panel considered the potential role of the Conservancy in early and near-term project efforts. PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the website. The presenters included:

Gail Newton, Chief of Flood Safe Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resource Office of DWR (FESSRO), representing the "Big Tent" process. Gail suggested that the Conservancy should chair the (Big Tent) group.

Byron Buck, Executive Director of State and Federal Water Contractors Agency (SFWCA) working on implementing early projects of BDCP. He said Conservancy is necessary to manage habitats and make restoration compatible with other projects, and needs to be supplied with funding to do so.

Laura King-Moon, State Water Contractors, BDCP's Habitat Coordination Committee (HCC). The HCC was formed a year ago to begin early restoration projects, primarily on public lands. She sees the Conservancy taking over ownership or management of projects as well as implementing projects in the future.

Heidi Rooks, Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA), DWR – FRPA was signed last October with a goal of 8,000 acres of inter-title habitat and associated subtitle in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, plus another 800 acres from the incidental take permit for smelt. Long-term requirements for monitoring to evaluate success could be something the Conservancy could take, as the Conservancy moves forward.

Kerry O'Toole, American Land Conservancy, working with Delta Land Trust Working Group (DLTW). DLTW have been waiting for plans to be complete and are eager to work with the Conservancy, and others, to implement projects. The work group's goal is to communicate with others to have efficient and effective results. They're here to

help Conservancy with community ties to the region. They're a private organization and do things state agencies can't do. The Land Trust Working Group is a voluntary group and looks at how they can work together for the benefit of all.

Campbell Ingram summarized that the Conservancy's key roles should be partnering, coordinating, maybe receiving lands, and implementing projects. The Conservancy could take the Big Tent's database and use it as foundation of components of its strategic plan. The Conservancy's strategic plan can work as a blue print for ecosystem restoration and look at tools and priorities to work collectively.

Senator Wolk said that the role of the Conservancy, as envisioned by the legislation and governor, is for it to be the primary agency for restoration in Delta. The Conservancy's involvement in larger efforts can give land owners one place to invest their time and energy and get results. Coordination of early Delta projects is needed and the Conservancy needs to be involved.

Senator Wolk suggested the Conservancy consider sending a letter to Secretary Laird describing the panel, suggesting the Conservancy has a role to play and ask for his support of taking on the opportunities.

Senator Wolk also said she does not know what will happen to the BDPC and that we shouldn't count on them. These projects may proceed no matter what happens with BDPC and the coordination effort will have to be taken over by someone.

A motion was made to send a follow-up letter to Secretary Laird requesting his support for the Conservancy to be a convener, for the Conservancy to address concerns regarding cumulative impacts, for the Conservancy to be a stronger coordination effort that would include the locals. Motion carried unanimously.

Potential Early Project Opportunities – In an effort to establish the Conservancy in the Delta, four projects were proposed for immediate action: 1) Grant Development Training to help partnering organizations identify and go after grant funding, \$2500. 2) Yolo Wildlife Area – provide signage with Conservancy logo, \$3700. 3) Yolo Wildlife Area – provide benches in demonstration area, includes Conservancy logo, \$1200. 4) Yolo Wildlife Area – provide gravel to complete newly built road, expanding public access to the Yolo Wildlife Area, two projects up to \$32,560. Motion made to approve items one through four.

Member Guenzler questioned the need for grant writing training. Staff gave examples of the need in the Delta community, adding that several hundred (private foundation) grant opportunities have been identified that the Conservancy, as a state agency, does not have access. Partnering with nonprofits on mutual projects will expand the number of projects the Conservancy can complete.

Discussion focused on the advantages, disadvantages, and concerns about the timing of these proposals. The Board approved the four early projects with an amendment to

add criteria in line with Conservancy's mission be developed for nonprofit selection on the grant writing training project, 5-3. Ayes: Piepho, Provenza, Taylor, Vogel, Guenzler. Nays: Finn, Woodruff, Ferrara.

Additional discussion focused on how the Conservancy might move forward in accepting land donations, developing a Safe Harbor Agreement for the Conservancy, developing an Agricultural Economic Development Fund and carefully considering future markets such as carbon sequestration, and the need for the Conservancy to develop competitive grant criteria in anticipation of future funding for grants.

Board directed staff to come up with a grant protocol and a matrix featuring land ownership and land management options. The Board also directed staff to include on future proposals a definition of tier 1 and tier 2, identify if the project is a revenue source or an ongoing expense, and to clarify how a project would meet the Conservancy's mandates and how it would address the Conservancy's co-equal goals.

Potential Agenda Items for the June 15, 2011 Agenda

Board asked to add to the agenda the Chair and Vice Chair elections as an action item; a report from the (newly formed) Legislative Committee; a report on Delta Plan comments sent to DSC; and more specifics details on the workgroup discussions

Respectfully submitted on June 2, 2011

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Contact

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